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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A bracket comprising:

a rectangular plate having a front face, a back face, a length and~~,~~ a width where the length is greater than the width, and opposing side edges extending in respective length and width directions with the length direction being longer than the width direction;

at least two openings in the plate, each opening wholly contained within the front and back faces so as to not intersect with the side edges and wherein the at least two openings consisting of only a single row of slots and the slots have a length and a width where the length is greater than the width and with the length extending parallel to the length direction of the plate and the slots are each located on or along a center axis of the plate relative to the length direction of the plate; and,

at least one pair of orifices in the plate, the pair of orifices located adjacent opposite side edges of the plate along the length of the plate so as to form a weakened zone widthwise for bending the plate along the weakened zone.

2. (original) The bracket of claim 1 wherein the openings extend between the front and back faces so as to form the openings completely through the plate.

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3. (original) The bracket of claim 1 wherein the orifices extend between the front and back faces so as to form the orifices completely through the plate.

4. (original) The bracket of claim 1 wherein the weakened zone is oriented perpendicular to the length direction of the plate.

5. to 7. (canceled)

8. (original) The bracket of claim 1 wherein the at least two orifices comprise notches or holes.

9. (previously amended) The bracket of claim 1 wherein the at least two orifices comprise notches and the notches intersect the side edges of the plate along the length of the plate and the notches extend into the plate toJabsen the center axis of the plate relative to the length direction of the plate.

10. (orignal) The bracket of claim 8 wherein the notches or holes do not intersect the adjacent opposite side edges of the plate along the length of the plate and do not intersect at least one of the at least two openings.

11. (previously amended) The bracket of claim 1 wherein the at least two orifices comprise notches and the notches intersect with at least one of the at least two openings.

12. (previously amended) The bracket of claim 1 wherein the at least two orifices comprise notches and the notches have a length extending parallel to the width direction of the plate.

13. (orignal) The bracket of claim 1 wherein the at least two orifices are located on opposite sides of at least one of the two openings and midway between opposite ends of the opening.

14. (orignal) The bracket of claim 1 wherein the at least two orifices comprise at least four orifices and wherein one pair of orifices is located on opposite sides of one of the at least two openings and midway between opposite ends of the one opening and a second pair of orifices is located on opposite sides of a different opening of the at least two openings and midway between a first end of the one opening and a second end of the different opening.

15. (currently amended) A bracket for use with a vent and a vent cover comprising:

a rectangular plate having a front face, a back face, a length and~~,~~ a width where the length is greater than the width, and opposing side edges extending in respective length and width directions with the length direction being longer than the width direction;

at least two openings in the plate with the openings extending between the front and back faces so

as to form the openings completely through the plate, each opening wholly contained within the front and back faces so as to not intersect with the side edges and wherein the at least two openings comprise slots and the slots have a length and a width where the length is greater than the width and with the length extending parallel to the length direction of the plate and each slot is located on or along the center axis of the plate relative to the length direction of the plate;

at least one pair of orifices in the plate associated with and on opposite sides of each slot and with the orifices extending between the front and back faces so as to form the orifices completely through the plate, the pair of orifices also located adjacent opposite side edges of the plate along the length of the plate so as to form a weakened zone widthwise and associated with and on opposite sides of each slot for bending the plate along the weakened zone.

16. (canceled)

17. (orignal) The bracket of claim 15 wherein the orifices comprise notches and the notches have a length extending parallel to the width direction of the plate and wherein the notches do not intersect the openings.

18. (orignal) The bracket of claim 15 wherein the at least two orifices are located on opposite sides of at least one of the two openings and midway between

opposite ends of the opening.

19. (orignal) The bracket of claim 15 wherein the at least two orifices comprise at least four orifices and wherein one pair of orifices is located on opposite sides of one of the at least two openings and midway between opposite ends of the one opening and a second pair of orifices is located on opposite sides of a different opening of the at least two openings and midway between a first end of the one opening and a second end of the different opening.

20. (orignal) The bracket of claim 15 wherein the openings have a longitudinal orientation and the orifices have a longitudinal orientation and wherein the longitudinal orientation of the openings is perpendicular to the longitudinal orientation of the orifices.

21. (previously amended) The bracket of claim 1 in combination with a vent cover and a process for using the bracket, the process comprising:

determining a first opening in the plate for securing the bracket to a vent cover;

determining a second opening in the plate for securing the bracket to a vent; and,

forming the bracket in accordance with determining the first opening and determining the second opening.

22. (orignal) The bracket of claim 21 wherein the process

further comprises securing the bracket to the vent cover at the first opening and securing the bracket to the vent at the second opening.

23. (orignal) The bracket of claim 22 wherein the bracket is secured to the vent at the second opening before the bracket is secured to the vent cover at the first opening.

24. (currently amended) A bracket comprising:

a rectangular plate having a front face, a back face, a length and~~,~~ a width where the length is greater than the width, and opposing side edges extending in respective length and width directions with the length direction being longer than the width direction;

at least two openings in the plate, each opening wholly contained within the front and back faces so as to not intersect with the side edges and wherein the at least two openings consisting of only a single row of slots and the slots have a length and a width where the length is greater than the width and with the length extending parallel to the length direction of the plate and the slots are each located on or along a center axis of the plate relative to the length direction of the plate;

at least one pair of orifices in the plate associated with and on opposite sides of each slot and with the orifices extending between the front and back faces so as to form the orifices completely through the plate, the pair of orifices also located adjacent

opposite side edges of the plate along the length of the plate so as to form a weakened zone widthwise and associated with and on opposite sides of each slot for bending the plate along the weakened zone; and,

wherein the at least two orifices intersect the side edges of the plate along the length of the plate and the orifices extend into the plate toJabsen a center axis of the plate relative to the length direction of the plate.